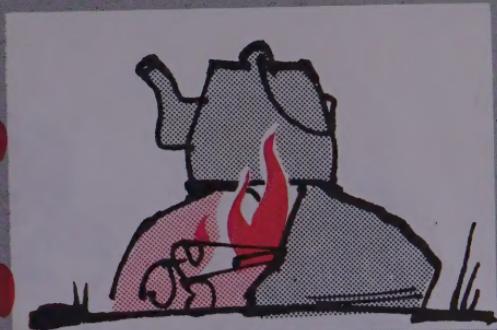


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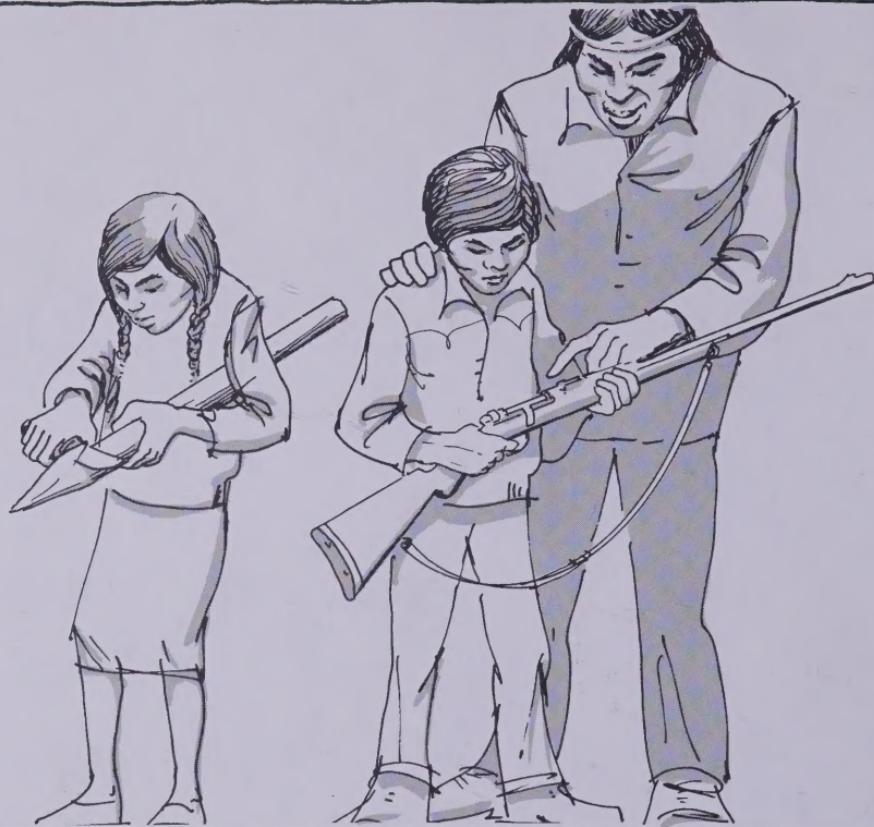
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Tim and Susan have a friend named Bob, who taught them how to use guns and knives safely.

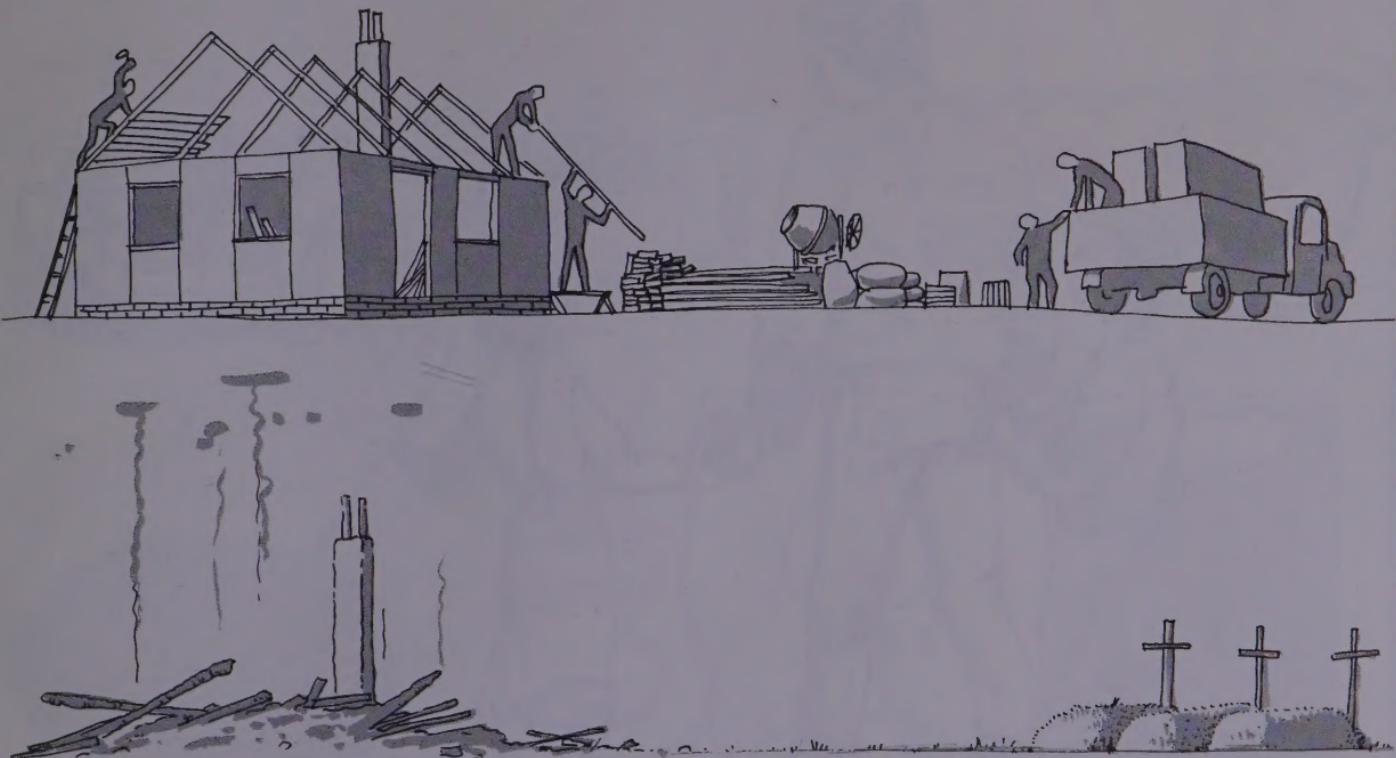
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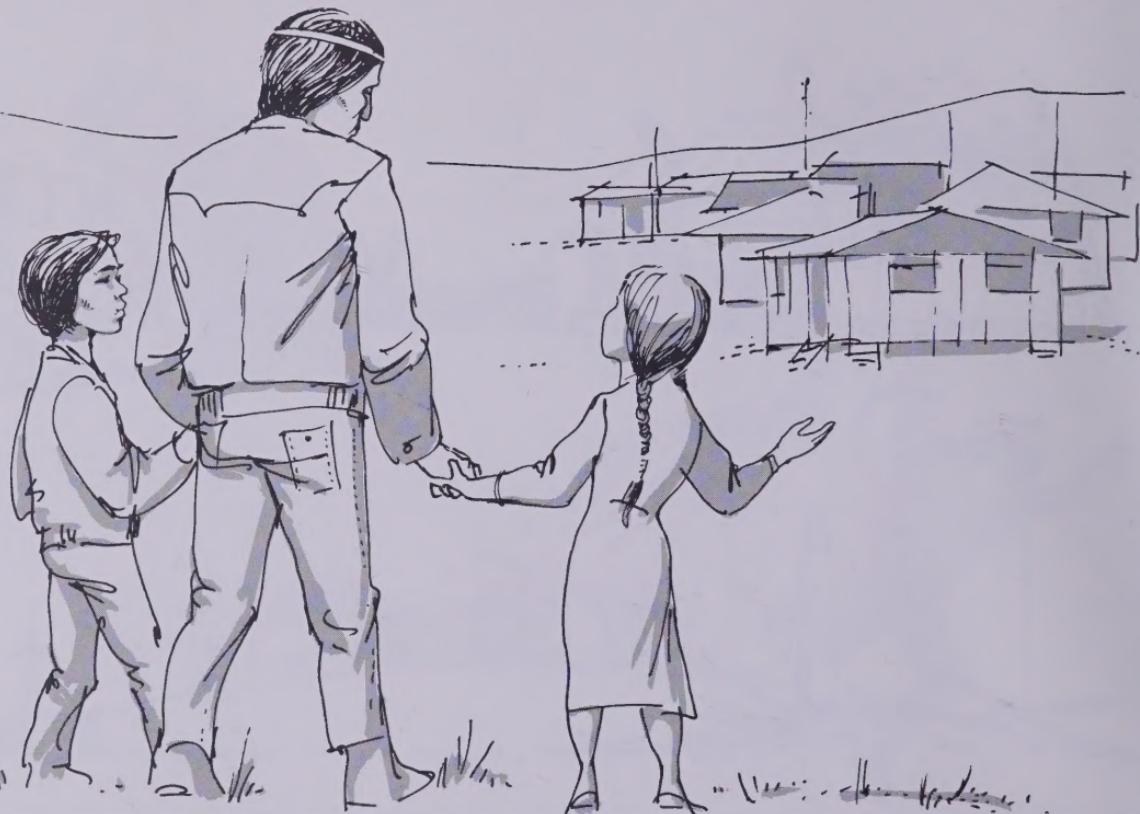
But the most important thing he ever taught them was how to use fire safely. He showed them that fire can be just as dangerous as a knife or gun, if not used wisely.



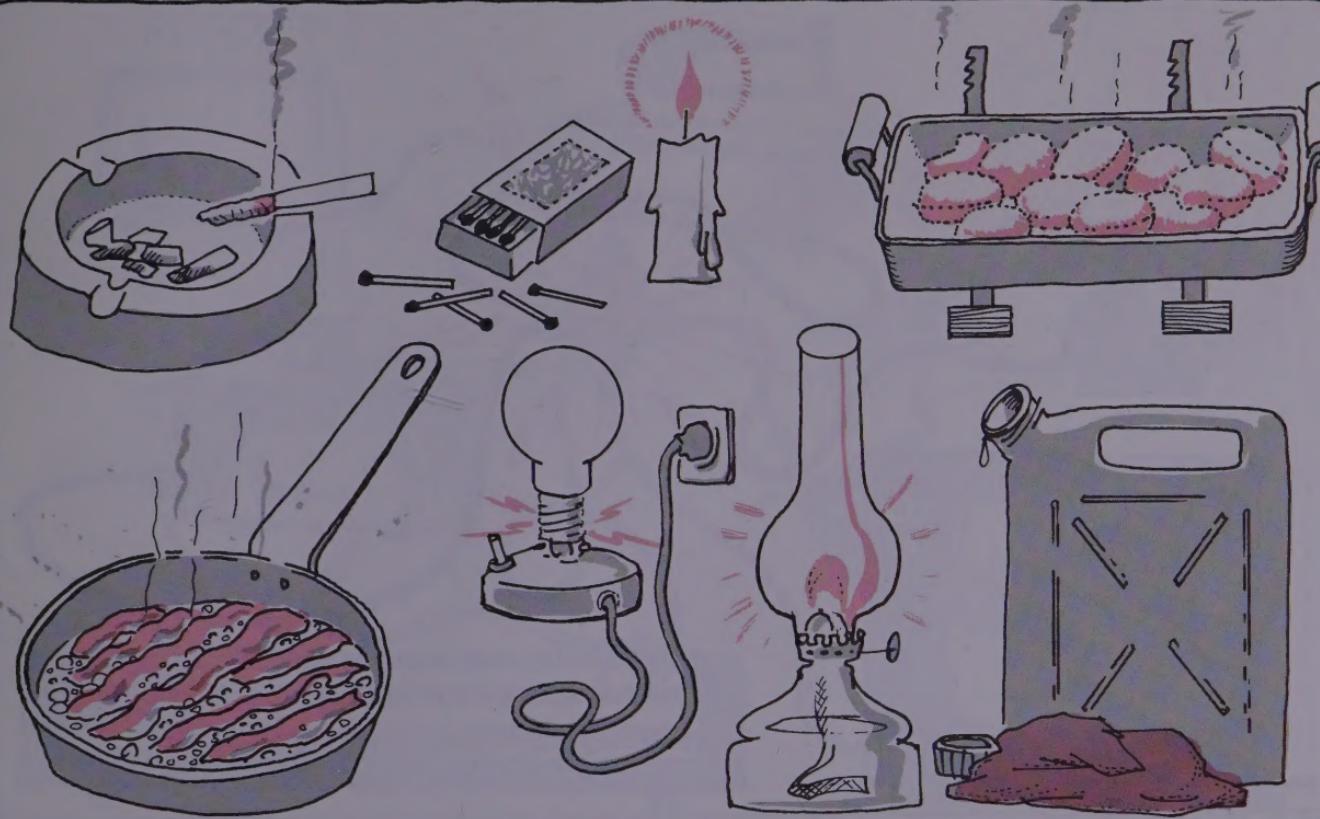
"Fire can be a very good friend or a deadly enemy," Bob warned them. "It all depends on how you use it."



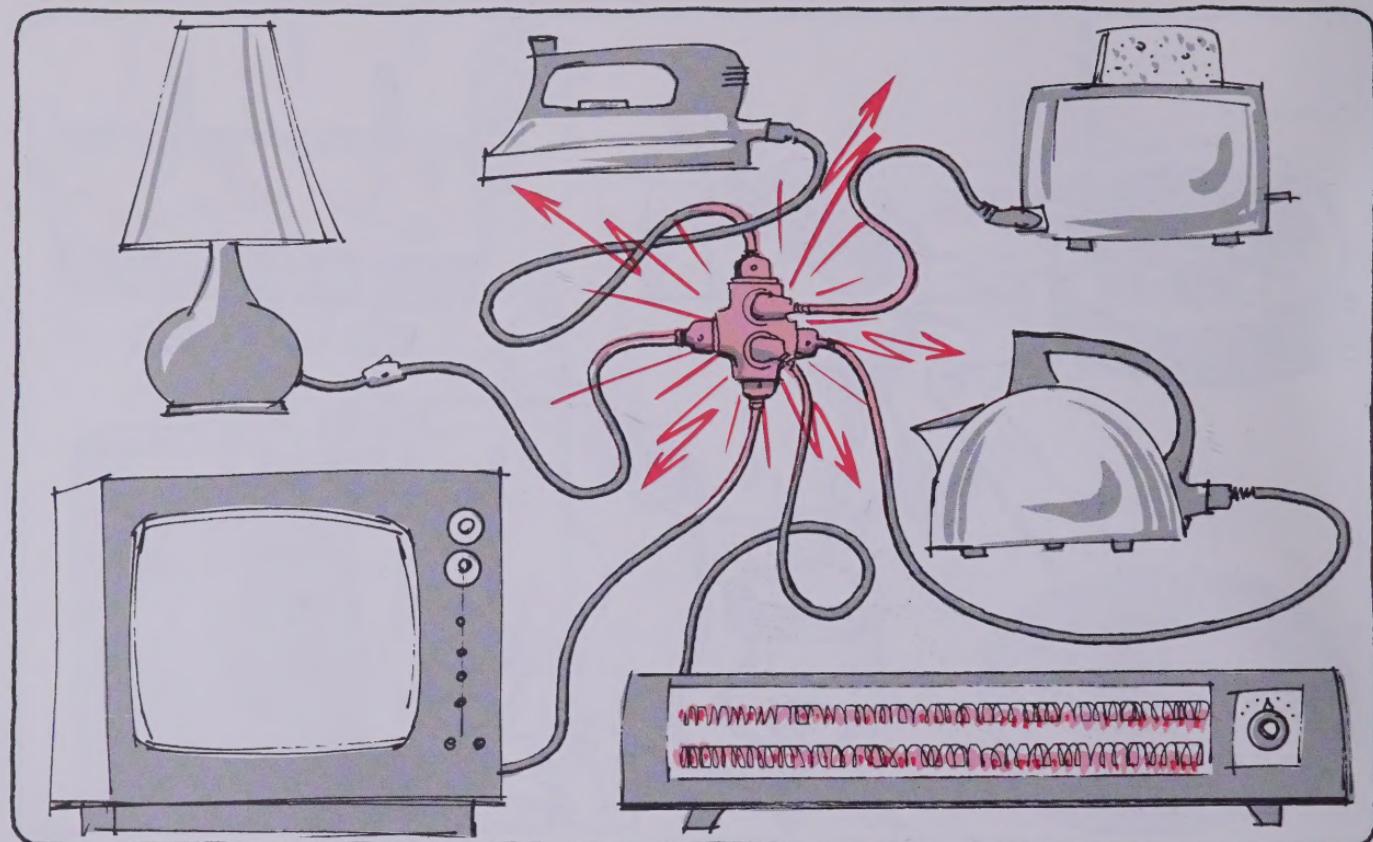
"It took many months to build your home, but fire could destroy it in a few seconds!"



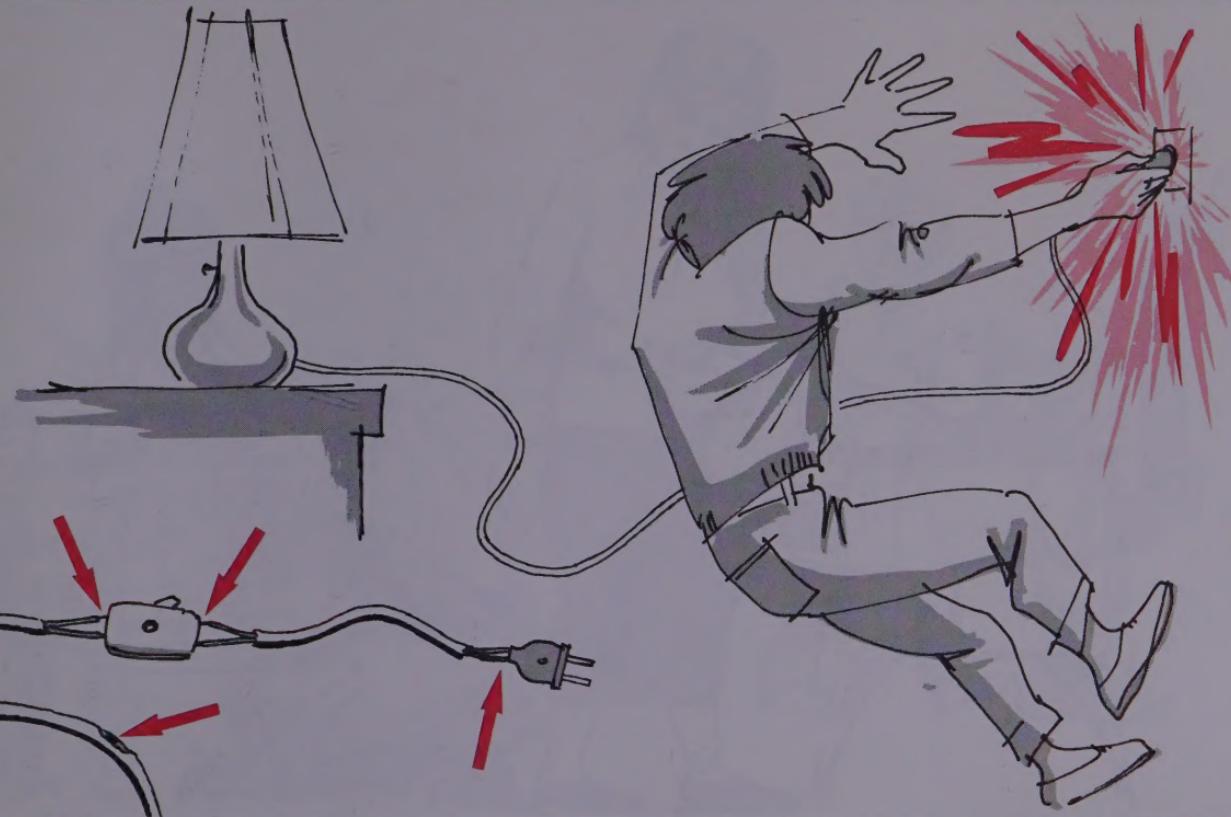
"But what can we do to protect our homes from fire?" asked Tim and Susan, "We're just kids."



"Oh, there's a lot you can, and should, do" explained Bob. "For example, learn to recognize fire hazards that may occur around your home."



"Make sure that no one ever plugs more than two appliances into any one outlet in your home. This could easily cause a fire."



"If you see frayed or broken wiring, ask an adult to fix it. Never touch it yourself. If you touch the bare wire, you could be killed!"



"Remember that children and burnable things, like paper, are dangerous around a stove."



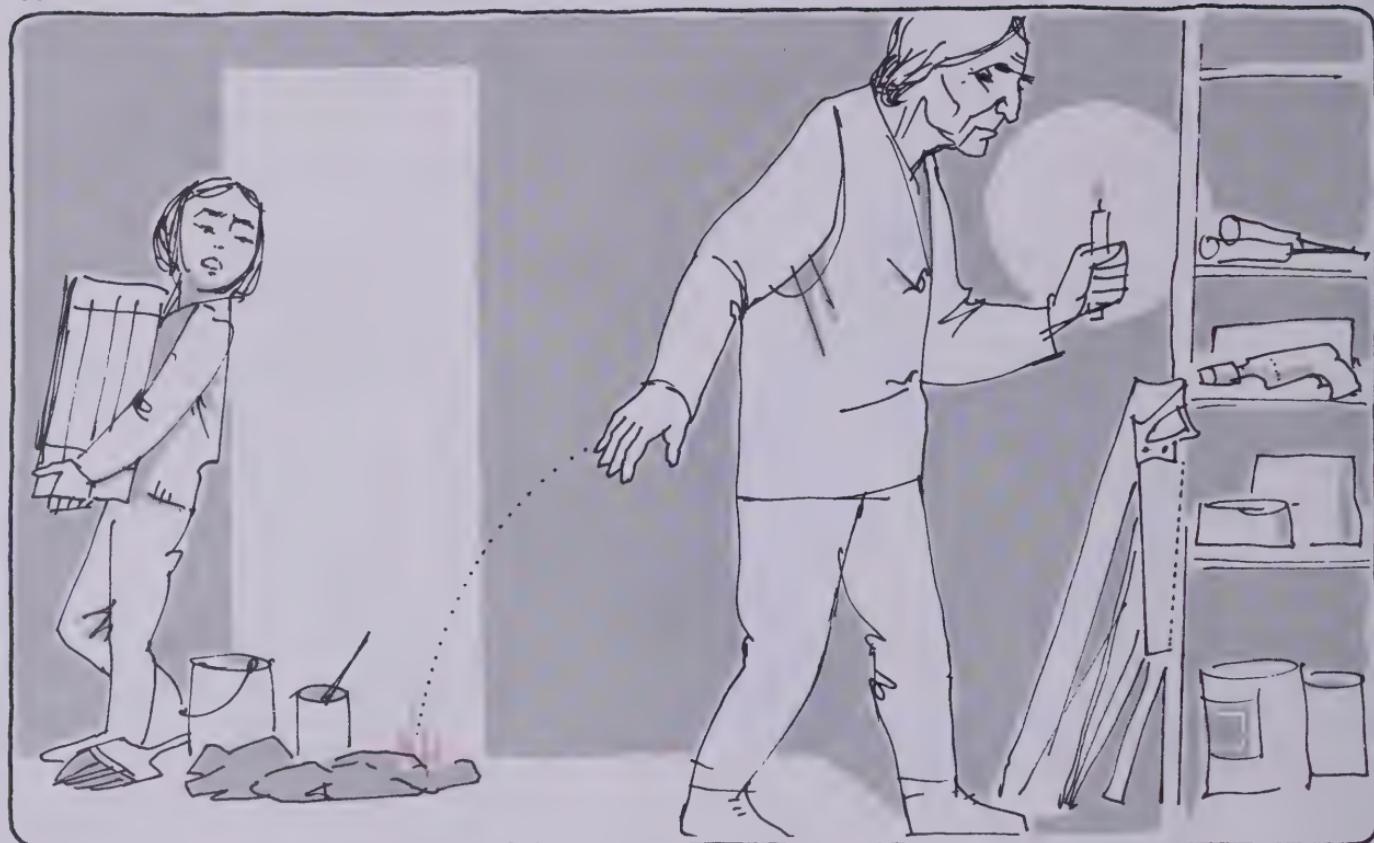
"Do your best to see that these hazards are kept far away from the stove."



"I know that my baby brother has to be watched very closely," said Susan, "especially in the kitchen!"



"Mine too!" Tim added. "Accidents can happen very quickly. I always check to be sure that matches are kept in a really safe place at my house, and not on a table or in a drawer that the baby can reach."



"Yes," said Bob, "That's very important. But even older people must be cautious when handling matches. Always hold them until they have cooled, then put them in a safe place."



"Never light a match near paint, gas, turpentine, or other things that burn quickly."



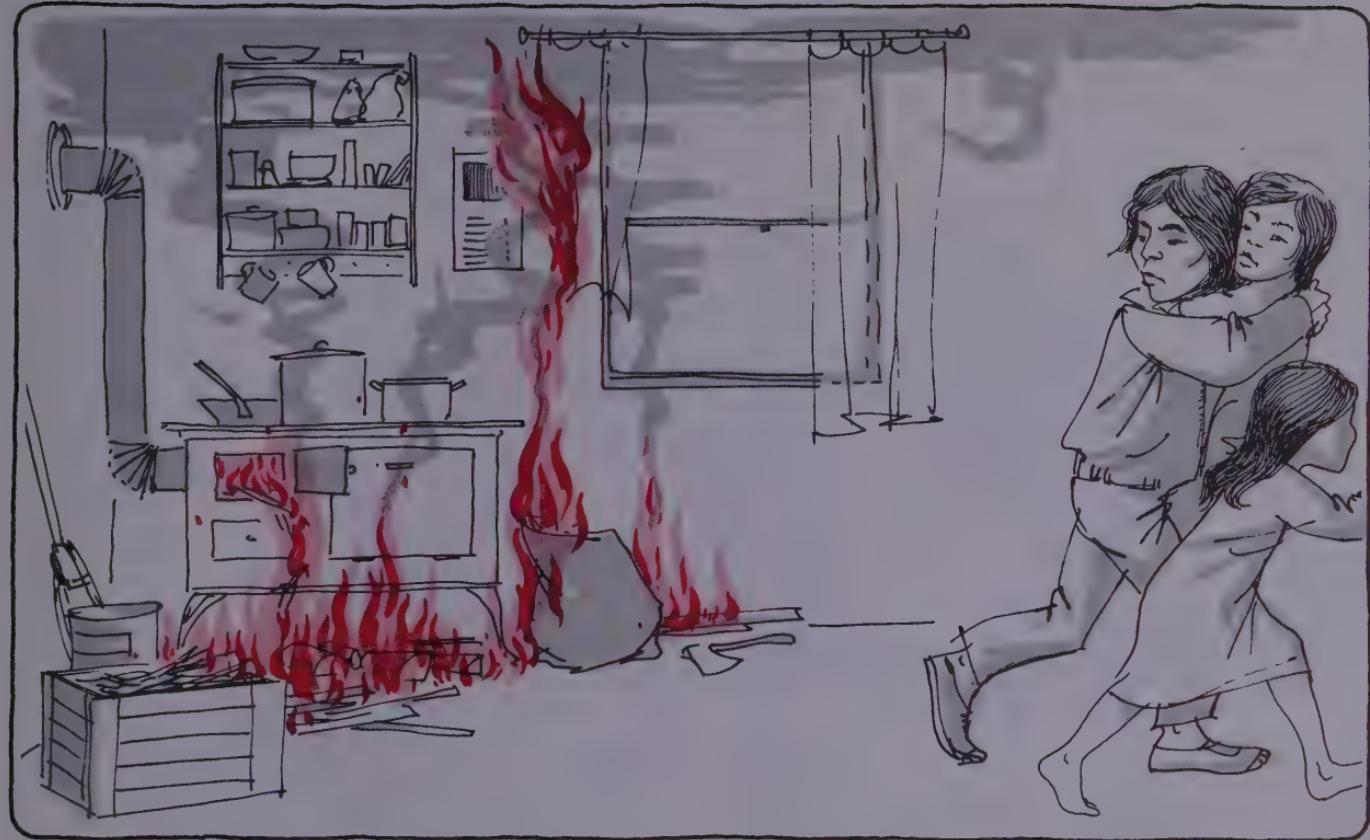
"If one of these liquids spills, clean it up right away. If a flame or spark hits it, it will flare up and burn someone."



"If you see a person who is smoking start to fall asleep, take the cigarette away and put it out in an ashtray."



"What should we do if a fire starts?" the children asked.



"You should never try to put out a fire by yourself. Alert everyone in the house, then leave quickly..."



...shout for help...



...and call the fire brigade from a safe place -- never from inside the burning building!"



"Did you know that if your clothes catch fire you should never run for help? Drop to the floor and roll until the flames are out. Call for someone to help smother the flames with a heavy coat or blanket."



"I know how to put out a frying pan fire!" offered Susan. "You cover the pan with a lid to smother the fire, and use a mitten or cloth to slide the pan off the burner. Never try to carry a burning pan, and never throw water on a grease fire!"



"That's right" said Bob. "Did you also know that if you smell smoke, you should feel the door before opening it. If it feels hot don't open it. Escape through a window."



"Never stay in a burning building. Even if the flames don't reach you, the smoke and deadly gases produced by fire can kill you very quickly."



"I knew that," answered Tim, "I also know that you should keep low to the floor when leaving a burning building, because the air closest to the floor is the safest. You should also try to cover your nose with a cloth."



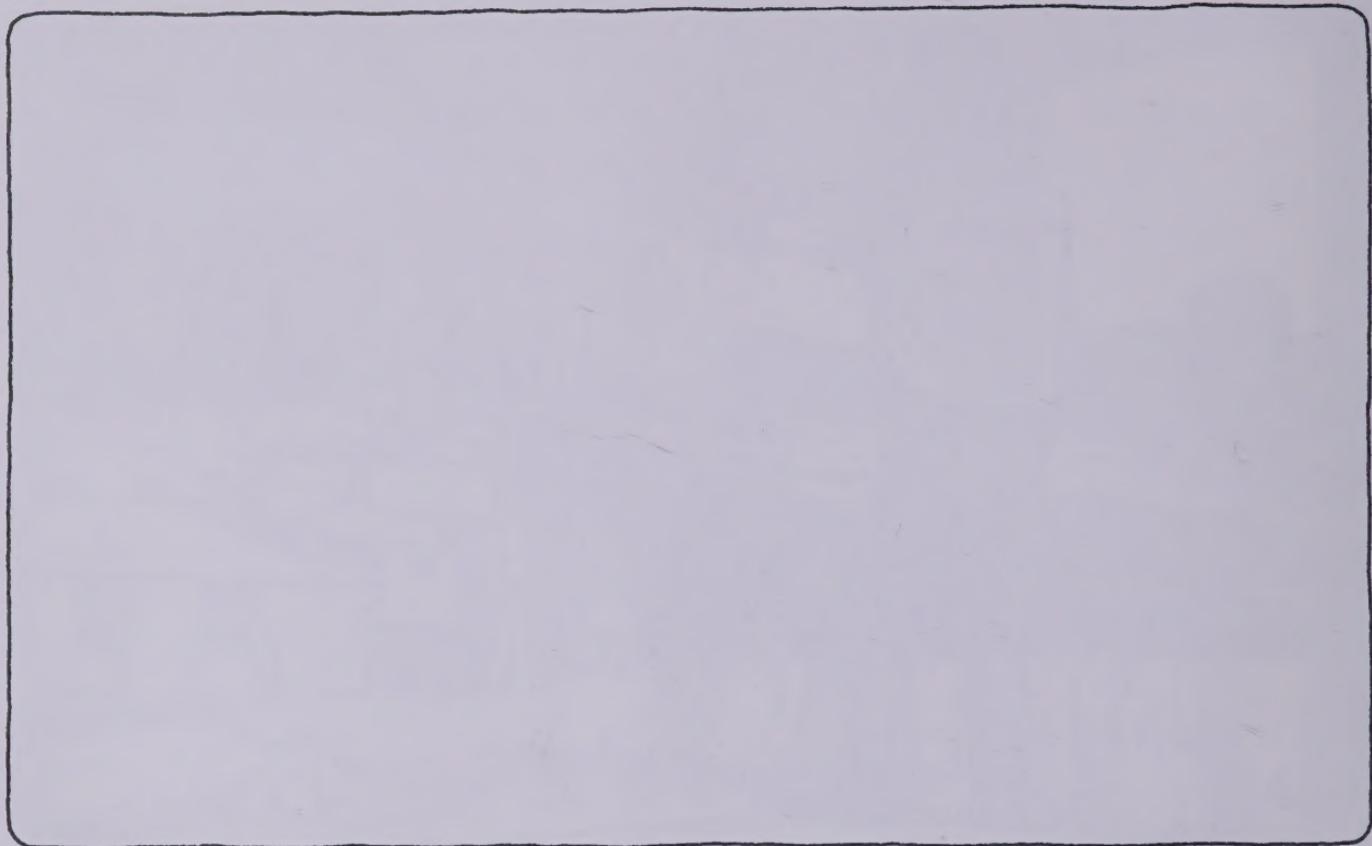
"Very true" said Bob. "It is important for a family to plan safe emergency escape routes from each bedroom. Ask your parents to help you plan and practice using your emergency exit."



"Every home should have a fire extinguisher. If you don't have one ask your parents to buy one right away. Tell them it's a matter of life and death!"



"Now, Tim and Susan," Bob said proudly, "I think you know enough to help your families prevent fire in your homes!"



Draw a picture of yourself doing something to prevent fire in your home.

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AUTHOR
friend or foe?
Fire:
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Artist: Ctirad Smolík
Text: M. L. MacDonald



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